

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for providing metadata, comprising:
providing an object descriptor interface;
creating an object descriptor class for an object using the object descriptor interface;
using methods defined by the object descriptor interface to identify a property of the object;
providing a property descriptor interface;
creating a property descriptor class using the property descriptor interface; and
using methods defined by the property descriptor interface to obtain metadata associated with the identified property.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the object descriptor interface extends a property set descriptor interface.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the property set descriptor interface contains the property descriptor interface.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the property descriptor interface defines methods that describe a single property.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the object descriptor interface collects multiple associated property descriptions into a single object description.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the object is a database.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of using methods defined by the object descriptor interface to identify a property of the object comprises using application program interfaces that talk to the database.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the object is a Java bean.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of using methods defined by the object descriptor interface to identify a property of the object comprises using a built-in object introspection mechanism.

10-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for providing metadata, comprising:
first implementation means for providing an object descriptor interface;
first creation means for creating an object descriptor class for an object using the object descriptor interface;
first exposing means for using methods defined by the object descriptor interface to identify a property of the object;
second implementation means for providing a property descriptor interface;
second creation means for creating a property descriptor class using the property descriptor interface; and
second exposing means for using methods defined by the property descriptor interface to obtain metadata associated with the identified property.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the object descriptor interface extends a property set descriptor interface.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the property set descriptor interface contains the property descriptor interface.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the property descriptor interface defines methods that describe a single property.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the object descriptor collects multiple associated property descriptions into a single object description.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the object is a database.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first exposing means comprises means for using application program interfaces that talk to the database.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the object is a Java bean.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the first exposing means comprises means for using a built-in object introspection mechanism.

23-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, for defining metadata, comprising:

instructions for providing an object descriptor interface;

instructions for creating an object descriptor class for an object using the object descriptor interface;

instructions for using methods defined by the object descriptor interface to identify a property of the object;

instructions for providing a property descriptor interface;

instructions for creating a property descriptor class using the property descriptor interface; and

instructions for using methods defined by the property descriptor interface to obtain metadata associated with the identified property.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the metadata describes a data type of the property.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the metadata describes editing capabilities of the property.